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For immediate release

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**Governor’s Directed Health Measure does not change the Long-term Care COVID Phasing Guidance**

**Panhandle total: 794, Active: 92, Recovered: 694, Deaths: 8**

The Governor’s Directed Health Measure does not change the Long-term Care COVID Phasing Guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The mitigation efforts that have been put in place remain critically important, especially in long-term care settings where residents may be more vulnerable to virus exposure. This guidance can be found here: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Documents/LTCCOVID19PhasingGuidance.pdf>.

Facilities are working hard to balance staff and resident safety and precautions with expectations of the resident’s loved ones. If you have a loved one in a facility, be sure to call before going to stay up-to-date on which phase they are in for resident safety and what ways are offered to connect with your loved one.

Unified Command confirms 38 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle since last reporting on Monday, September 14. The investigations are underway, all close contacts will be quarantined and actively monitored for symptoms by public health officials.

<b>Children 19 and under: 7</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Exposure Type</b>
<b>Box Butte</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Close Contact</b>
<b>Dawes</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Close Contact</b>
<b>Scotts Bluff</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Close Contact</b>
<b>Scotts Bluff</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Community Spread</b>
<b>Scotts Bluff</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
<b>Sheridan</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Close Contact</b>

<b>Adults: 31</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Exposure Type</b>
<b>Box Butte</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Close Contact</b>
<b>Box Butte</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Community Spread</b>
<b>Cheyenne</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Close Contact</b>
<b>Dawes</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Close Contact</b>

Grant	1	Close Contact
Morrill	1	Close Contact
Morrill	1	Community Spread
Scotts Bluff	3	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	5	Community Spread
Sheridan	2	Close Contact
Sheridan	4	Community Spread
Sheridan	2	Travel

Unified Command confirms 28 more recoveries in the Panhandle:

<b>Recovered: 28</b>	
<b>County</b>	<b>Total</b>
Box Butte	6
Cheyenne	2
Dawes	4
Morrill	1
Scotts Bluff	12
Sheridan	3

**Testing information and access for the Panhandle area:**

- You can sign up for the following free testing at [Testnebraska.com](http://Testnebraska.com) or 402-207-9377:
  - Box Butte General Hospital in **Alliance**: Monday-Friday, 9-10am
    - Ambulance Bay on the east side of the emergency department, watch for the green arrows
  - **Chadron** Community Hospital: Mondays & Fridays, 7-9am
    - Collections are at 821 Morehead Street (Old Hospital ER Entrance next to Wilson Park)
    - **Other testing opportunities for symptomatic patients may be available through the hospital as ordered by your Primary Care Practitioner, call the hospital at 747-2466 with questions.**
  - **Gordon** Memorial Hospital: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-4pm
  - Regional West Health Services in **Scottsbluff**: Mondays & Fridays, Noon-4pm; Wednesdays, 2-6pm
  - **Sidney** Regional Medical Center: Tuesdays & Thursday, 7-9am
- Community Action Health Center in **Gering**: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 7-8am
  - Testing is free, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/yvdxr5mc>
- Morrill County Community Hospital in **Bridgeport**: Daily
  - Call 308-262-1616 for testing, same day results
- Contact your local hospital or clinic for information on testing access.

**March 2-September 17, 2020**

- **Total Tests Conducted: 13,422**

- **Positive: 794**
- **Cumulative Positivity Rate: 5.7%**
- **Recovered: 694**
- **Active Cases: 92**
- **Deaths: 8**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 8**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 78**

Panhandle Public Health District, Region 21, 22, and 23 Emergency Management, and Scotts Bluff County Health Department are working as a unified command on this evolving situation. Essential updates will be regularly communicated to the public and community partners.

For the most up to date information from the CDC, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety, and quality of life for all who live, learn, work, and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community. Visit our website [www.pphd.org](http://www.pphd.org).